



NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit Themes

(check one or more of the following)

☐ Agriculture
☐ Architecture/Landscape Architecture
☐ Arts
☐ Commerce
☐ Communications
☐ Community Planning/Development

☐ Conservation
☐ Education
☐ Entertainment/Recreation
☐ Ethnic Heritage (specify)
☐ Health/Medicine
☐ Manufacturing/Industry
☐ Military

☐ Politics/Government/Law
☐ Religion
☐ Science & Engineering
☐ Social Movements/Organizations
☐ Transportation
☒ Other (specify) Manhattan Project & Cold War Era
☒ **Study Unit Sub-Theme(s)** Waste Management (Liquid)

Statement of Significance

Date of Construction 1944 Architect/Engineer/Builder _____

☒ In the opinion of the surveyor, this property appears to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places.

☒ In the opinion of the surveyor, this property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local).

The 216-B-5 Reverse Well was located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site. It was about 370 meters northeast of the 221-B Building. The well was completed in 1944 to a depth of 92 meters and was designed to provide a system for distributing liquid waste solutions into the surrounding sediments. The well operated from April 1, 1945 to September 20, 1947. The well received low salt, alkaline, and radioactive liquid wastes from cell washings from the 221-B and 224-B Buildings via the 241-B-361 settling tank. Wastes were initially discharged to the settling tank and overflowed to the reverse well. It was removed from service when it was discovered that alpha contamination had reached ground water. Liquid waste entered the well at about 3.7 meters below ground surface. The well received waste from a settling tank that removed particulate material prior to being discharged into the reverse well reducing the chance of plugging the system. The system was designed to operate when liquid levels in the reverse well reached the lower end of the pipe indicating that the well was filling with liquid waste.

It is the conclusion of the U.S. Department of Energy that the B-5 Reverse Well, through its initial role in liquid waste management, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a contributing property within the Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District.

Description of Physical Appearance

The 216-B-5 Reverse Well was drilled using a telescoping casing technique with 40 cm casing to 4 m, 30 cm casing to 31 m, 25 cm casing to 74 m, and 20 cm casing to 92 m. The design called for a 20cm casing to be perforated from 74 meters to the bottom of the well to allow waste solutions to be distributed into subsurface sediments. From the ground surface a 1.3 cm diameter pipe extended to within 15 meters from the bottom of the well to allow measurements of liquid levels.

Major Bibliographic References

Rockwell Hanford Operations. 1980. *216-B-5 Reverse Well Characterization Study*. RHO-ST-37. Richland, Washington.